(b) the commodities which have registered increase in exports to China include iron-ore, machinery and instruments, petroleum products, chemicals, non-ferrous metals, sesame seeds, man-made staple fibres, etc.

(c) and (d) The steps being taken on an on-going basis for increasing India-China trade include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, organizing buyer-seller meets, exchange of delegations at both governmental and business levels, exchange of information, etc.

Indo-Pak talks on trade and economic cooperation

1002. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether two day Indo-Pak Secretary level talks were held in Islamabad in the month of August, 2004 on trade and economic cooperation;

(b) if so, the points and subjects discussed;

(c) whether any agreement was signed between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent trade between the two countries would be improved further; and

(e) whether Pakistan's tea industry wants free deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During these talks, trade related issues were discussed. However, no agreement was signed.

(d) Bilateral trade between India and Pakistan is showing a buoyant trend during the current fiscal. The two-way trade between India and Pakistan during April-July, 2004 has almost trebled in four months, rising to US $ 186.36 million as against $ 64.41 million during the corresponding period last fiscal. If this trend continues, total trade between India and Pakistan may cross $ 500 million during 2004-2005.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration.